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A Reprint Edition Of The Real Inside Story Of The U-2 Affair

QUITE INTERESTING is a detailed account of Francis Gary Powers and his U-2 plane which has just been reprinted in a pocketbook edition by Bantam Books.

It is entitled "The U-2 Affair" and it has been written by two Washington newsmen Davis Wise and Thomas B. Ross — "without," they emphasize, "the official cooperation of any agency or individual in the government and over the active opposition of some."

In this pocketbook reprint edition "The U-2 Affair" is likely to reach a far larger number of readers than it did when it first appeared in May of this year.

In general outline this U-2 story has been widely reported — all over the world. In this narrative are the hitherto-unreported details, the behind-the-scenes details that bring this story to life in a compellingly interesting manner.

IT IS KNOWN, of course, that Powers' U-2 plane, flying at upwards of 70,000 feet over Russia, was shot down, probably by a Soviet rocket, and probably, also, by a lucky hit.

What may not be so well known, the authors reveal, is that this flight was a top-secret CIA mission, routed from an airfield in Pakistan nearly 3000 miles across the Soviet Union to Bodo, Norway, and that its primary purpose was to photograph Russia's first operational ICBM base — in other words, high-altitude espionage.

POWERS, 30 YEARS old, quit a \$700-a-month job as a jet pilot with the Air Force to take a \$2500-a-month job with Lockheed, fronting for the CIA, as a U-2 pilot. He had flown 200 hours in a U-2 plane and had completed 20 missions before his plane was shot down in Russia.

When the plane, with all its elaborate espionage equipment crashed to earth and Powers, parachuting down, was captured, Khrushchev started an international uproar, sabotaged the summit conference in Paris and brutally insulted President Eisenhower.

IT APPEARS, say the authors, that while Eisenhower was aware of the U-2 espionage program — only a very few top-top echelon men in the government were aware of it — it is doubtful that he directly or specifically authorized this particular U-2 flight over

Russia on the eve of the summit conference.

As the Khrushchev-created uproar started, high officials of the United States government put out an obviously false cover story insisting that the U-2 was simply a weather reconnaissance plane. Other cautiously-put-together statements followed.

AND FINALLY, say the authors — "For the first time in its 184-year history, the government of the United States conceded publicly that it had deliberately lied, that it had committed espionage, and violated the territory of another country."

Powers' show-trial, his imprisonment, and, finally, the swap — Powers for Russian spy Abel — are reported in equally interesting hour-by-hour, almost minute-by-minute detail, in "The U-2 Affair."